

Appl. No. : 10/675,589
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

IMPROVED METHOD OF FLUID DELIVERY AND CATHETERS FOR USE WITH SAME

Abstract of the Disclosure

A pain management system for the infusion of drug to a wound site includes ~~a pump connected to medical tubing which is connected to an improved infusion catheter for providing uniform delivery of fluid throughout an anatomical region. The infusion catheter is inserted into the body of a patient at a pierce site, spaced from an incision site, and extended to the wound site. The pump causes the drug to flow through the medical tubing, through the infusion catheter and to the wound site. One method by which the infusion catheter is advanced to the wound site includes a guide needle that is placed within an introducer tubing. The needle is~~ and tubing are pierced through the patient's skin, after which the guide needle is withdrawn ~~and discarded, leaving the introducer tubing in place partially under the patient's skin. The infusion catheter is then threaded through the introducer tubing and advanced to the wound site. The introducer tubing is then withdrawn and the infusion catheter remains in place to provide drug to the wound site. The introducer tubing is preferably peeled off of the infusion catheter and discarded. In accordance with one embodiment of the catheter, the catheter comprises an elongated tube with a plurality of exit holes along an infusion section of the catheter, and an elongated flexible porous member residing within the tube and forming an annular space between the tube and the member. In accordance with other embodiments, the catheter includes a tube having a plurality of exit holes in a side wall of the tube. The exit holes may~~ a plurality of exit holes, which combine to form a flow-restricting orifice of the catheter. Advantageously, ~~fluid within the catheter flows through all of the exit holes, resulting in uniform distribution of fluid within an anatomical region.~~